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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 21 | Humidity 66% Cloudy and breezy Sensex 83,755 | Nifty 25,549 | Gold 96,818 | Silver 1,06,518 | Dollar 85.65 | Euro 100.31 | GBP 117.66

IN A CHOKE HOLD

On the one hand is a govt order to remove concrete around trees, while on the other hand, workers continue to pour cement on green plans

PAGE 3

BIG CAT SHOCKER

After tigress and her 4 cubs die of suspected poisoning in MM Hills, conservationists urge area be declared tiger reserve

PAGE 6

Citizens sorry to note relaunched Sahaaya app with new feature is pretty much as helpless as its earlier version; complaints get closed promptly without anybody lifting a finger to solve the issue

ALL IS HUNKY-DORY IN SAHAAYA APP WORLD

Abandoned toilet bowls, uncovered drains remain just how they were

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Suzanne Gilani, a resident of Inner Circle Road in Whitefield, says she has stopped using BBMP's Sahaaya 2.0 app. Gilani says she raised several complaints regarding various civic issues in her area on the app over the last few months. However, all the complaints were closed without being addressed.

"One of the complaints I filed on the app was about abandoned toilet bowls on 6th Cross Road. I raised the complaint on multiple occasions. However, the ticket was marked resolved on the app while toilet bowls are still in the same location," said Gilani.

While the BBMP launched the app in 2020 with a new feature that allows people to escalate unresolved complaints twice, many citizens say it has been of little help.

Ravi Krishna Srivastava, a resident of New Temple Road in Whitefield, has faced the issue in more than 10 complaints he has raised since January this year. All the complaints raised by Srivastava have been closed without being addressed.

"I have raised complaints on

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"A few months back, we submitted a checklist of issues plaguing these apps to BBMP officials, but there was little follow-up or resolution. The civic agency should gather more feedback from affected residents and share relevant contact information

—Sandeep Anirudhan, civic activist

Even welfare is up for sale

Educational material meant for children of construction workers found being sold by the kilo on roadside

Atiya Firdos
c-syeda.atiya@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In a fresh instance of welfare misuse, educational materials meant for the children of construction workers were found being sold by the kilo on a roadside in Bengaluru, raising uncomfortable questions about whether such schemes truly reach their intended beneficiaries.

On June 23, officials discovered stacks of school notebooks, graph books, and drawing books bearing the official logo of the Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board, being openly sold at ₹70 per kilogram in Chowdeshwari Nagar near Laggere. The books, intended to be distributed free of cost to children of registered labourers, were instead dumped into the open market.

The incident came to light following a tip-off and a surprise inspection by members of the Karunada Karmikara Sene. Senior Labour Inspector BH Manjunath visited the site and filed a formal complaint. A case has since been registered at the Rajagopalnagar Police Station against one individual allegedly involved in the illegal sale.

Officials suspect that the materials were likely diverted from within the system, either during procurement or distribution, raising concerns about internal collusion. "These books are supplied through formal government tenders. It's unlikely someone outside the system could access them this easily," sources told BM.

This case adds to a growing pattern. In June 2024, the Karnataka High Court ordered a detailed audit

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Nature nook

Openhouse is organising a joyful nature escape where little explorers climb, sort, build, and create with earth's treasures at every turn. From leaf trails to muddy tales, every moment is an invitation to wonder in this experience that encourages imagination, movement, and joyful discovery.

Where: All Openhouse Centres;
When: June 28 (for ages 1-3) and June 29 (for ages 3-5)

02 Tune in

Vilen, the singer-songwriter from Delhi, is set to take the stage and mesmerise the audience with his soulful music.

Where: Ignite Super Club, HSR Layout;
When: June 27, 7 pm

03 Theatrical magic

Urban Chaupaal is presenting 'Udhedbun', a heartwarming yet comical exploration of love, relationship, and cultural clashes.

Where: Alliance Francaise, Vasanth Nagar;
When: June 28, 4 pm and 7 pm

04 Art unleashed

Free-floating, untethered, and massive in scale, Janarthanan Rudhramoorthy's magnificent metallic beings are taking centre stage in KYNKYNY's exhibition on view.

Where: KYNKYNY Art Gallery, Infantry Road;
When: May 30 to June 27, 11 am to 6 pm

05 Musical devotion

Pancham Nishad is presenting Bolava Vitthal, a unique musical experience that celebrates the timeless devotional tradition of Abhangs, presented by some of the country's most revered and soulful voices.

Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Malleshwaram;
When: June 27, 6.30 pm

Over 700 schools in city are ready for some climate action

Surge in registrations is due to extensive outreach activities highlighting benefits of these clubs on campuses, and Deputy CM's involvement, says BBMP official

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bengaluru Climate Action Cell's initiative to establish Climate Action Clubs in educational institutions across the city is rapidly gaining traction.

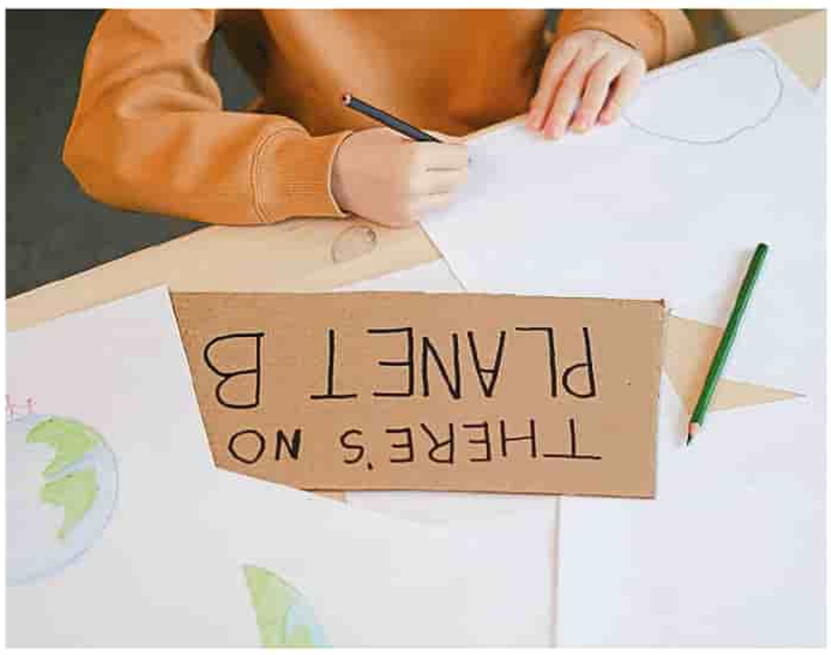
In less than a month, as many as 725 schools and colleges have come forward to establish these clubs on their campuses. Out of the total registrations, 501 applications are from various government, private, and aided schools in the city, with the maximum applications (293) from schools in the Bengaluru South zone.

As many as 46 out of the 725 registered clubs are already active, engaged in implementing climate action plans.

Under the program, each club comprises one teacher and ten students, and the clubs can choose from a list of 269 climate-change actions listed to mitigate climate change in the city.

"Educational institutions in Bengaluru have initiated the formation of Climate Action Clubs aimed at fostering environmental responsibility among students," said Preeti Gehlot, BBMP Special Commissioner (Forest, Environment, and Climate Change Management), adding that currently the focus is on creating clubs and starting activities in nearly 50 schools that have already formed these clubs.

Officials from BBMP's Climate Action Cell say the surge in registrations is due to extensive outreach activities highlighting the benefits of these clubs on campuses.



The initiative aims to cultivate a sustainable mindset amongst students and integrate climate action into the educational framework

"Once the club is formed, members assess their campus's environmental impact and develop a Climate Action Plan. For example, if a school uses 100 litres of water daily, the club may set a goal to reduce this to 80 litres

– Representative from the Climate Action Cell

"During outreach sessions, we underscore the benefits of having this club on campuses, which include attainment of a green school identity and public recognition. The involvement of the Deputy Chief Minister is yet another factor leading to the exemplary participation," said an official.

The initiative aims to cultivate a sustainable mindset amongst students and integrate climate action into the educational framework. It is also expected to create awareness amongst school and college students to strengthen Bengaluru's fight against climate change.

Following registration on the Bengaluru Climate Action and Resilience Plan's (BCAP) online portal, institutions receive guidelines about formation of the club, which involves identifying a teacher and selecting ten students to serve as the executive committee. This leadership team, at every campus, would then be responsible for conducting audits on resource usage, including water consumption, waste generation, and electricity usage to establish a baseline for improvement.

"Once the club is formed, members assess their campus's environmental impact and develop a Climate Action Plan. For example, if a school uses 100 litres of water daily, the club may set a goal to reduce this to 80 litres," explained a representative from the Climate Action Cell.

According to BBMP's Climate Action Cell, a dedicated portal has been established to list participating students and their respective teacher coordinators. Development of a separate portal for teachers is underway and is expected to be completed within the week. Following the portal's completion, actionable steps will be taken after discussion with school heads and clubs' representatives.

Officials say the positive response by educational institutions is also due to pre-existing commitments to environmental programs, including eco clubs.

The Climate Action Cell has collaborated with various knowledge partners for expertise to ensure successful implementation of the program.

An official highlighted that the program aims to foster a culture of sustainability in educational institutions, ensuring that students actively participate in environmental conservation efforts. "Despite registering over 500 schools, the initiative still has a long way to go to engage the remaining schools in Bengaluru. The Climate Action Cell plans to continue its efforts to scale the program, emphasising the importance of collective action in addressing climate change at the grassroot level," added the official.

Vanivilas Hospital to get blood bank soon

Vanivilas Hospital, one of Bengaluru's key mother-and-child healthcare facilities, is set to open its own blood bank by the end of the year. Currently dependent on Victoria Hospital for its blood supply, Vanivilas handles around 1,300 to 1,500 deliveries per month and sees over 250 outpatients daily. Despite having a 700-bed capacity — with 500 reserved for expectant mothers — the hospital lacks an in-house blood storage unit and requires approximately 3,600 units of blood annually. In contrast, Victoria Hospital itself needs about 8,000 units per year, leading to occasional challenges in timely supply for Vanivilas. Most admitted patients face complications like high blood pressure, cardiac issues, bleeding, or placenta previa, increasing the demand for a blood facility. Dr Savitha C, Medical Superintendent, confirmed that a suitable space has been identified and essential equipment will be procured through Karnataka Medical Supplies Corporation Limited (KMSCL). **–BMB**

HC stays action against ex-MP in road rage case

The Karnataka High Court, presided by Justice SR Krishnakumar, issued an interim order on Thursday halting coercive measures against former BJP MP Anantkumar Hegde regarding a road rage incident from June 23.

The case stems from an alleged assault on a motorist and his family by Hegde's associates on the highway. The victim, identified as Khan, reported that the incident occurred near Hale Nijagal village in Nelamangala Taluk, approximately 60 kilometres from Bengaluru, after his Toyota Innova passed Hegde's Mahindra XUV multiple times. Upon stopping, Hegde's driver and security personnel allegedly confronted and attacked Khan. The complainant stated that Hegde was present during the incident and encouraged the assault.

In his police report, Khan detailed that the attack occurred whilst travelling with his family, resulting in the loss of several teeth. He specifically named Hegde amongst the perpetrators. **–BMB**

Kempegowda Jayanthi celebrations today

The 516th birth anniversary of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda, the founder of Bengaluru, will be celebrated on Friday. The main BBMP-level event will be held at Dr Rajkumar Glass House in the BBMP headquarters. Symbolic 'Pura Jyothis' (city flames) will be lit and carried from seven historically significant locations — including Lalbagh, Mekhri Circle, Kempambudhi Lake, Halasuru, Magadi (Kempegowda's tomb), Avati, and Hutridurga — led by various ministers. These will converge at the upcoming Kempegowda Bhavana site near Sumanahalli Junction (Magadi Road).

A state-level celebration will follow at Dr Babu Jagjivanram Bhavana at 12.30 pm, where the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Awards will be presented to achievers from various fields. The BBMP's own celebration will take place from 4.30 to 6 pm at the BBMP headquarters. **–BMB**

Concrete cuffs still strangle city trees

Despite clear orders from top officials, concretisation around trees continues unchecked in B'luru, endangering their survival; environmentalists urge BBMP to prioritise prevention

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Despite instructions from State Forest Minister Eshwar B Khandre and an order by BBMP Special Commissioner (Forest, Environment and Climate Change Management) Preeti Gehlot to remove concrete around trees, the practice continues in Bengaluru. A well-grown tree on 3rd Cross Road of P&T Colony in RT Nagar is expected to be choked shortly due to the concrete around its stem.

Though the Forest Minister and the BBMP Special Commissioner directed authorities to remove concrete around trees not just in Bengaluru but across the state, it's unclear when they will pull up their socks and prove their mettle.

There are many trees in Bengaluru craving for the authorities' attention. With the unfortunate incidents that claimed two lives in the city in two months, the authorities have vied among themselves in issuing orders to protect trees that are choked with concrete and also remove dead trees and dry tree branches that pose danger to the public.

However, concretisation of trees, either due to a lack of awareness or vested interest, continues across the city. With the BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) authorities remaining apathetic and negligent, the workers engaged to repair footpaths caused damage by putting concrete around the trees. "I am shocked to come across the concrete put around the tree at P&T Colony. It is the responsibility of the BBMP Forest Department or the ward engineer to ensure no concrete around the trees. I hope the authorities concerned remove the concrete to ensure no damage to the well-grown tree," said a resident.

Concrete around tree on 3rd Cross of P&T Colony, RT Nagar

> **"It is disappointing to see that no contractor is following minister's directive. We need to leave some space around trees for percolation of rainwater**
>
> –Balaji R, activist

Expressing concern over the lack of awareness, Balaji Raghotham, a lake activist, said the authorities have to ensure a 1-metre open space around the trees according to the State Forest Minister's directive. "It is disappointing to see that no contractor is following the minister's directive. We need to leave some space around the trees for percolation of rainwater," said Balaji Raghotham.

Appreciating the proactive steps taken by the BBMP to safeguard the city's green cover, Vinod Jacob of Namma Bengaluru Foundation said that he continues to witness instances where tree bases are being concreted, which will severely harm the root systems, leading to the slow decay and eventual death of the trees. "This pressing issue underscores the urgent need for a comprehensive awareness campaign targeted at citizens, who are the true stakeholders in the city's ecological well-being. Despite large-scale planning and well-intentioned programs, a significant communication gap persists between authorities and the public. For such initiatives to be truly effective and transparent, they must clearly outline the actions proposed, the associated costs, and must actively involve qualified experts who can implement solutions on the ground," he said.

Meanwhile, BBMP Forest Officer (East) Nagendra Singh said that he would take measures to remove the concrete around the tree.

However, the environmentalists want the BBMP Forest Department officers to keep a vigil on those putting concrete around the trees. They opine that the preventive measures will serve the purpose instead of penal actions.

'Narcs worth ₹45 crore destroyed as part of anti-drug drive'

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Marking the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the Karnataka State Police and Bengaluru City Police held a large-scale awareness event at Kanteerava Stadium on Thursday. The event, attended by thousands of students and dignitaries, was aimed at spreading awareness about the dangers of drug abuse and strengthening anti-drug efforts across the state.

The programme was inaugurated by Karnataka Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara and presided over by Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad. Director General and Inspector General of Police, MA Saleem, along with several senior officers and experts, were present. Over 7,000 students participated physically, while more than 500 colleges joined virtually. Over 50,000 students took a pledge administered by the Home Minister to lead a drug-free life, with more than 1 lakh viewers tuning in on YouTube.

Highlighting the state's crackdown on drug trafficking, the Home Minister revealed that narcotics worth ₹45 crore were destroyed as part of the drive. Over the past year, the Bengaluru City Police have seized approximately 4,000 kg of Ganja, along with large quantities of synthetic drugs known to have highly harmful effects. Inputs from peddlers have led to several major busts. The minister also disclosed that more than 200 individuals, including international students involved in drug peddling, have been deported.

KAUSHIK JN

Home Minister Parameshwar attends anti-drug event at Kanteerava Stadium

A secure QR code was launched at the event, allowing citizens to anonymously report drug consumption or trafficking. The Home Minister appealed to the public to use the tool and support the police in their fight against narcotics. "Every college, university, and educational institution in the state must have an Anti-Drug Committee," he said, further noting that shops near campuses, including medical stores and petty outlets, are increasingly being used as distribution points for narcotics.

Mime performances, awareness skits and drama, and citywide human chains marked the day's activities. Awareness campaigns across social media will continue until the end of the month. The Home Minister concluded by urging students to say no to drugs and support the state's mission for a drug-free Karnataka.

Ex-trainer's kin assaults horse owner

A Mumbai-based horse owner has filed a police complaint alleging he was assaulted after dismissing a horse trainer from his job.

According to the complaint filed at Halasuru Police Station, the victim, who owns a drinking water manufacturing plant, had come to Bengaluru on June 20 to attend the weekend horse races. He checked into a hotel near MG Road along with a friend, Sameer.

The complainant said former horse trainer Zaheer Singh, fired a year ago over professional differences, had been threatening him since. On learning of his city visit, Zaheer allegedly sent his brother Sunny and associate Bila to attack him at his hotel. On June 22, Sunny allegedly called the victim and later met him near the hotel lobby. After an argument, Sunny and Bila assaulted him near the parking area, threatening his life over Zaheer's career.

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Haralur residents drowning in trash, demand action now

Garbage piles, stray dog menace, and rodent infestation plague Haralur as residents demand more tippers and timely door-to-door waste collection from BBMP

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

PICS: KAUSHIK JN

Only one auto tipper is alloted for garbage from one of the buildings at Haraluru

Around 300 families at Reliable Lakeview Residency and nearby areas in Haralur are facing serious issues due to piles of uncollected garbage. Residents complain that waste collectors assigned for door-to-door service show up only once a week, making it difficult to manage the accumulating wet and dry waste.

"Wet waste is collected only once or twice a week. There have been times when it wasn't picked up for 10 days. Whenever we call the waste collection in-charge, he says he'll come on designated days just so we don't complain—but he never turns up. The wet and rejected waste keeps piling up. We also have a few bachelor accommodations and PG-type houses where the owners don't live, and the tenants just leave the garbage outside, claiming it's BBMP's responsibility. Stray dogs then scatter the waste all over the place," said Rupali, president of the Reliable Lakeview Residency Owners' Association.

Rupali said that residents have created block-wise groups to manage waste more efficiently, but officials rarely respond. "There are too few collection vehicles, and the waste management system is completely broken. Whenever there's a VIP visit, the contractor shifts focus to cleaning that area and covering up black spots. Meanwhile, rejected waste is left to rot and stink for an entire week," she said.

"There was a delay because the auto tipper driver was on leave. I have now assigned personnel to resume garbage collection and waste clearance – Madhu Gowda, BBMP Health Inspector

Demanding that BBMP authorities closely monitor door-to-door waste collection, Roopashree Venkatesh, a resident of Haralur, said the shortage of auto tippers is the main reason behind the waste accumulation in the area. "The BBMP has allotted just one auto tipper, when two or three are needed. The driver has to make multiple trips to the garbage transfer station, which is 2.5 km away, before collecting waste from the remaining buildings. The build-up of wet waste has led to a rat infestation, which in turn attracts snakes—posing a serious threat to residents," she said.

Echoing similar concerns, Anjali Vaidya, a resident of Reliable Lakeview Residency, said that door-to-door waste collection is not happening as expected. "We constantly have to call the health inspector to send an auto tipper to collect waste from our homes. I urge BBMP authorities to ensure that waste is collected regularly from every doorstep," she said.

Meanwhile, BBMP Health Inspector Madhu Gowda acknowledged the delay in daily waste collection, stating that the auto tipper driver had been on leave for a few days. "I have assigned personnel to resume door-to-door collection. We will ensure that the accumulated waste is cleared," he said.

Flyover work picks up speed

After years of sluggish progress, the long-pending Ejipura flyover project has finally picked up pace, with 50% of the construction now complete. A dedicated team of engineers, formed by the BBMP Chief Commissioner in March, has helped expedite the project, which had been dragging on for eight years. The 2.5-kilometre stretch from Ejipura Junction to Kendriya Sadan—covering seven major junctions—is now on track to become signal-free, potentially easing severe traffic congestion in the area by the end of the year.

So far, 424 precast segments have been constructed, and 314 of them have been installed on-site. Work remains on another 338 segments, along with the installation of 448 segments in total. The BBMP plans to complete all casting by November and finish installation by December. Currently, around 275 metres of the flyover is being constructed each month using three precast segment beds spread across an eight-acre site.

Originally launched in 2017 at a cost of 203 crore, the project was awarded to Simplex Infrastructure, which failed to meet the November 2019 deadline. The government subsequently re-tendered the remaining work and handed it over to BSCCPL in 2023. However, due to continued delays, BBMP formed a special engineering team under the leader. **–BMB**

BBMP acts on tree hazards

The BBMP's Forest Department has launched a drive to remove dried and hazardous trees and branches from roads and government lands across Bengaluru. Citizens can report such trees and branches in their neighbourhood by calling the BBMP helpline at 1533 or by sending WhatsApp messages with photos and location details to the designated divisional forest officers based on their Assembly Constituency. In the West Zone, contact Sudarshan (Rajajinagar, Govindarajanagar, Malleswaram) at 9480683341 and Rajesh (Mahalakshmipuram, Gandhinagar, Chamarajpet) at 9449175978. In the East Zone, reach Nagendra (Shantinagar, CV Raman Nagar, Pulakeshinagar) at 9113530344 and Shivanna (Shivajinagar, Hebbal, Sarvagnanagar) at 9164597895. In the South Zone, contact Chandrappa V (Basavanagudi, Vijayanagar, Padmanabhanagar) at 9480683655, B B Meti (Chickpet, Jayanagar) at 9740576919, and Harish H R (BTM Layout) at 7676165253. For Dasarahalli, call Rajappa K N at 9448234928; in Bommanahalli, call Narendra Babu at 9480685399. **–BMB**

File photo

Metro awaits new coaches

BEML will deliver 20 metro trains by March 2026 for Namma Metro's Pink Line, which connects Kalena Agrahara to Nagawara over a 21.26-km stretch under Phase 2. A prototype is expected by September 2025, after which full production will begin. To meet the target, BEML has scaled up operations at its Bengaluru facility and is building a new unit in Bhopal. An official said civil work is 100% complete on the 7.5-km elevated stretch from Kalena Agrahara to Tavarekere, while underground work continues between Dairy Circle and Nagawara. The new trains will support operations on the Pink Line, with some also serving the Blue Line. Though civil works on the Electronic City route are over, operations are delayed due to train shortages—making timely deliveries critical to opening new corridors. **–BMB**

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Banner breach
Shantinagar

Despite the ban on flex banners, a birthday hoarding featuring the local MLA and his son was prominently displayed at Nanjappa Circle in Shantinagar, sparking public outrage.

Smoke trouble
Rajajinagar

Unregulated garbage burning in Rajajinagar 6th Block is causing respiratory issues, especially affecting senior citizens and those with health conditions.

Vendor chaos
Shivajinagar

The stretch from Cooks Road to B 2nd Cross via Thimmaiah Road in Shivajinagar is heavily congested with street vendors during peak hours, leaving no space for pedestrians.

Partner's suicide: Man not off hook

Court notes that evidence suggests accused's involvement in blackmail and possession of compromising images, and if proven, could constitute abetment to suicide

The Karnataka High Court declined to dismiss proceedings against a 28-year-old man in a case involving abetment of suicide of his live-in partner. The Court considered a criminal petition by the accused challenging proceedings before the Additional Civil Judge, concerning charges under Section 306 of the IPC and Sections 66E and 67A of the IT Act.

Justice M Nagaprasanna stated, "The digital trial – the contents of the phones, the FSL report and the testimonies recorded, do not allow this Court to step into the shoes of the Trial Court. The plea that this is a case of mere scorned affection or a casual taunt cannot be countenanced when placed against the backdrop of deliberate humiliation and alleged extortion." He said that the nuances and textures of the tragic narrative must be unfolded in a full blown trial. "It cannot be forgotten that a young life has been extinguished in a manner that raises grave concern," he said. The Court indicated that the Trial Court should evaluate the extent of betrayal, coercion, and claim authenticity.

The legal representatives included Senior Advocate Ravi B Naik for the petitioner, whilst Additional SPP BN Jagadeesha and Advocate B Rudresh represented the respondents.

The case involved former classmates from an engineering college, with the deceased later working as a business analyst. Their three-year relationship involved financial transactions of Rs 51 lakhs. In 2023, the deceased reportedly took her life, with allegations of abetment against the accused.

The Court noted that evidence suggested the accused's involvement in blackmail and possession of compromising images. The Court stated that if proven, these actions could constitute abetment to suicide.

The High Court concluded that the circumstances warranted a full trial and declined to exercise jurisdiction under Section 482 of the CrPC, thereby maintaining the proceedings against the accused.

> **"It cannot be forgotten that a young life has been extinguished in a manner that raises grave concern**
>
> –Justice M Nagaprasanna

ASHA mentors' termination stayed

The Karnataka High Court has suspended a government directive dated June 12 that dismissed 195 ASHA mentors from their positions. During the hearing, Justice Pradeep Singh Yerur issued a notice regarding the petition submitted by affected ASHA workers, stating, "There shall be stay of the operation of the impugned order dated 12/06/2025 issued by respondent No 3 vide Annexure-A till next date of hearing."

The petitioners' counsel, Advocate Shridhar Prabhu, highlighted that his clients have dedicated over ten years to their roles, completed required training, and significantly contributed to the ASHA programme's.

The submission noted that authorities failed to provide permanent positions despite their decade-long service, and the current termination lacks justification.

According to the petition, the order did not provide suitable alternative employment for the affected workers. Additionally, it was reported that termination notices were being communicated informally through WhatsApp messages. The petition seeks to have the order declared unconstitutional and requests the regularisation of the petitioners' positions as ASHA mentors. —**BMB**

OTP, face ID verification to curb seat blocking

In a major move to prevent seat blocking malpractice in engineering courses, the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has decided to implement mandatory OTP-based mobile authentication and face recognition (Face ID) for all Common Entrance Test (CET) related processes from this year onwards.

Until now, KEA issued a 'secret key' to each student, which acted as a password for crucial steps such as option entry, seat selection, counselling, and admission confirmation. However, this system has now been scrapped following incidents of misuse during the 2024 CET, where miscreants used students' secret keys to block seats in reputed colleges without their knowledge.

"Certain individuals misused the secret keys issued to students last year, leading to large-scale seat blocking. As a preventive measure, we are replacing the secret key system with OTP and face ID authentication," said H Prasanna, Executive Director of KEA, adding that this will ensure that only the registered student can participate in the CET counselling process.

Over 2.75 lakh students have qualified for CET 2025. The KEA is currently awaiting the finalisation of seat matrices across various disciplines. Once complete, the seat allotment process will be initiated under new security protocols. The seriousness of the scam came to light after an internal KEA staffer was arrested. He was allegedly leaking students' secret keys to agents, allowing them to manipulate seat selection process. With the introduction of real-time OTP verification and biometric face recognition, KEA aims to ensure transparency, accountability, and fairness in the CET counselling process. —**Sridhar Vivan**

Advertorial Promotional Feature

BM Food & Night Life

Microwave does more than heat food

Are you one of those who reach for the microwave door when they need to heat some food from the fridge or simply heat water for tea? This versatile gadget has many uses beyond heating cold food for you.

Make delicious eggs

Whichever way you like your eggs— scrambled, poached, sunny-side up, or hard-boiled— the microwave can cook them for you in minutes.

Steam vegetables

Steam your veggies in a covered bowl in the microwave with a little water, and you are good to go!

Crisp up soggy snacks

Simply put your portion in a microwave-safe vessel and heat it for 30 to 60 seconds. After microwaving, leave the bowl out for a few minutes and enjoy your crunch.

Toast nuts

Ensure you place your nuts in one layer on a microwave-safe plate and stick them in for one minute. After a minute, rearrange them and put them in for another minute. Continue the process at one-minute intervals, rearranging them and flipping them over, so they toast evenly. Test them along the way and stop once they are toasted.

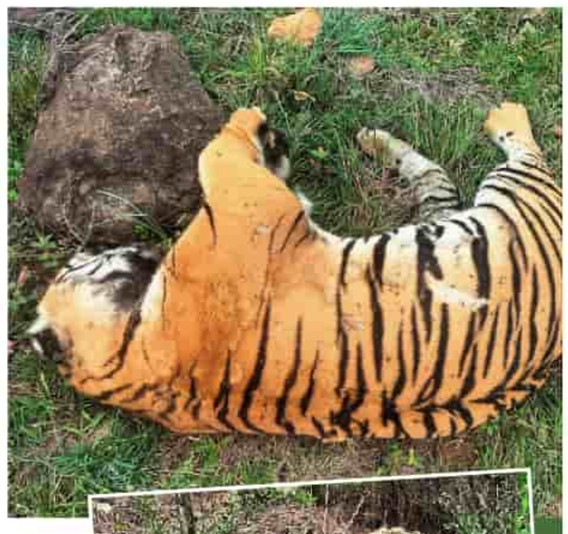
Make fresh herb powders

Dry your herbs, fresh, in the microwave. Place four to five tender twigs of the herb you want on a kitchen paper towel and microwave them for two to three minutes. Within that time, it should be dry and will crumble easily into a powder.

Foam milk for your lattes

Pour your milk into a jar and seal it. Shake it well for a minute or two until you see all the froth. Immediately microwave it for 30 seconds. —**Femina**

Shock & outrage after tigress, 4 cubs found dead in MM Hills



Poisoning is suspected; conservationists demand area be declared tiger reserve in face of rising number of big cat deaths, funds delay

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In the early hours of Thursday, officials of the MM Hills Wildlife Division of the Karnataka Forest Department located not one or two, but five dead tigers – a tigress and her four cubs.

According to a preliminary report by the department, the animals are suspected to have died due to poisoning. Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has ordered a high-level probe into the incident, calling it both "unnatural" and "painful."

"The unnatural death of five tigers in a single day is a deeply disturbing incident. A team under the leadership of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has been constituted to investigate. They will conduct a site inspection and action will be taken if any negligence is found. A report will be submitted within three days," stated a release from the minister's office.

With these deaths, the total number of tiger fatalities in the state this year has risen to eight. The shocking incident has reignited debate over the lack of protective measures in the Male Mahadeshwara Hills Wildlife Sanctuary (MM Hills WLS), which, despite being a critical tiger habitat, has not been notified as a tiger reserve.

Karnataka, with 563 tigers, holds the second-largest tiger population in the country, as per the All-India Tiger Estimation (AITE) of 2022. However, conservationists argue that numbers alone do not reflect the effectiveness of wildlife protection.

Joseph Hoover, former member of the State Board for Wildlife and founder of the United Conservation Movement and Charitable Trust, held the government responsible for the tragedy. "Had MM Hills been notified as a tiger reserve, these tigers might have survived. The government's negligence has cost five precious lives," he said.

The state had applied to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) in 2010–11 to convert MM Hills into a tiger reserve. While NTCA gave technical clearance and sought a final proposal, successive governments, including the current one, failed to act. Minister Khandre cited a lack of funds as the reason behind the delay.

Experts, however, argue that financial constraints are only part of the problem. "There is inadequate protection across all reserves and sanctuaries in the state," said a Bengaluru-based wildlife expert. "Karnataka was once praised for launching the Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF), but if a poisoning of this scale went unnoticed, something is clearly broken in the system."

Other conservationists echo that while tiger reserve status brings stronger legal safeguards and funding, it cannot be the sole solution. "Poaching, poisoning, and electrocution continue to claim tiger lives even inside reserves. So simply upgrading a sanctuary's status won't fix everything," one of them said.

Delays in disbursing funds under Project Tiger, a centrally-sponsored scheme for tiger conservation have also been flagged as a serious concern. Giridhar Kulkarni, a noted conservationist, said that financial delays hamper core functions like patrolling, surveillance, and fire prevention.

"It's not just about legal protection. Delayed funding paralyzes basic operations on the ground. Add to that the approval of infrastructure projects within protected areas and tiger corridors, and you have a crisis in the making," he said.

Kulkarni stressed that the investigation should also explore other underlying factors. "Were there recent livestock deaths or crop damage incidents? Was compensation provided to villagers on time? Have there been poaching alerts in the region? All these angles need thorough examination."

The deaths have cast a shadow over Karnataka's conservation record and raised tough questions about wildlife governance. As the Forest Department begins its probe, experts and citizens alike are demanding accountability, stronger policy action, and a renewed push to finally declare MM Hills a tiger reserve, a promise left unfulfilled for over a decade.

A two member SIT has been formed with NTCA and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau officials to investigate the matter and submit the report.

"Karnataka government failed in protecting tigers; had MM Hills been a tiger reserve, these tigers might have survived with better protection

—Joseph Hoover, Former member of the State Board for Wildlife and Founder

NTCA may ban monsoon tourism K'taka reserves

If the National Tiger Conservation Authority's (NTCA) recent approval letters to various state forest departments are anything to go by, monsoon tourism in the tiger reserves in Karnataka may soon become a thing of the past. In its recently issued Tiger Conservation Plan (TCP) approval letters, the NTCA has taken a firm stance against monsoon tourism. "Tourism activities should be managed and regulated as per the 2012 NTCA guidelines under Section 38 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and under no circumstances should monsoon tourism or tourism in village rehabilitated sites be carried out," the letters state.

Conservationists have long flagged concerns over monsoon tourism in Karnataka's tiger reserves. "Earlier, tourism was sustainable. Now, eco-tourism has turned into economic tourism," said a wildlife conservationist. "Monsoon is a critical breeding season for wildlife. Tourism during this period causes stress to animals and affects conservation work, especially as poaching risks increase in the monsoon."

The NTCA had earlier recommended that tiger reserves remain closed for at least three to five months during the monsoon.

However, experts stress that tourism bans must be balanced with support for local communities. "Conservation efforts will only succeed if the state also ensures alternative livelihoods for people dependent on tourism," said conservationist Giridhar Kulkarni.

NLSIU transgender quota case hits roadblock

On Thursday, Karnataka High Court's Acting Chief Justice V Kameswar Rao recused himself from hearing NLSIU's appeal against a single judge's directive for 0.5% transgender reservation in course admissions.

The division bench, led by Justice Rao and including Justice CM Joshi, noted the Chief Justice's role in the university's governing bodies and directed the matter to be relisted before another bench.

Senior advocate K G Raghavan, appearing for NLSIU, called the single judge's order flawed, arguing it imposed a new reservation category without legal or scientific backing. He said the 0.5% transgender quota lacked proper study and added that the candidate hadn't initially claimed reservation.

Raghavan stressed the university's compliance with interim orders, including admission and aid offers, and said courts should not alter policy through judicial overreach. **BMB**

Docs' transfer: 'Alluring life of B'luru'

The Supreme Court on Thursday called Bengaluru's cosmopolitan life "very alluring" as it refused to examine a plea by government doctors against their transfers out of the city.

A bench of Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and K Vinod Chandran said there was no prejudice in the doctors being transferred, adding, "You are a privileged class. If you oppose transfers, what about others?"

The petitioners had challenged the Karnataka State Civil Services (Regulation of Transfer of Medical Officers and other Staff) Rules, 2025.

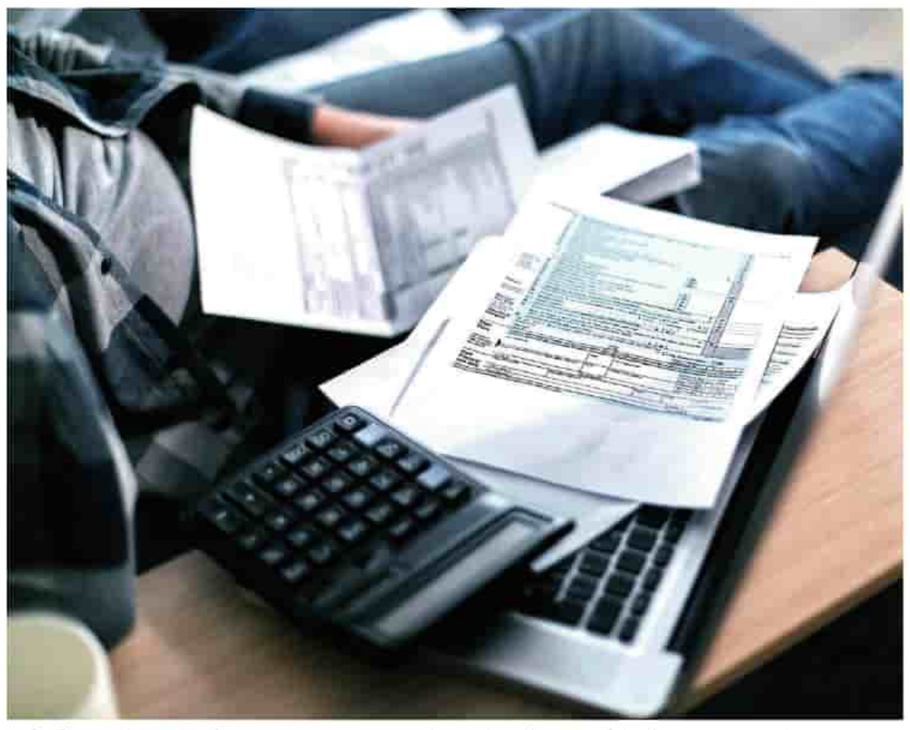
They argued the final notification included "Greater Bengaluru," which wasn't part of the draft, and that they were given only a week to file objections.

Earlier, the Karnataka High Court had upheld the rules, stating they were within the state's legislative competence. **PTI**

Document marathon for tax filers

Submitting IT returns becomes tougher, with stricter checks and more demand for proof under old tax regime

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR



The process of filing Income Tax Returns (ITR) in India, once considered relatively straightforward, has turned significantly more complex this financial year. While taxpayers are accustomed to filing returns annually—choosing between the old and new tax regimes—those opting for the old regime are now facing a more demanding compliance structure. What was earlier a routine data upload is increasingly becoming a 'documentation marathon'. Tax experts say this shift is aimed at plugging revenue leaks and improving transparency, but it's also creating stress among genuine taxpayers.

According to Anand S. Kulkarni, a practicing Chartered Accountant, "Till now, most individuals simply uploaded their Form 16 and declared a few deductions. But now, the IT department is asking for granular proof for almost every deduction, investment, and financial activity. This includes furnishing receipt numbers, account statements, property details, and more."

Deductions under scanner

Those under the old regime must now submit detailed proofs for deductions under Sections 80C, 80D, and others. For example, if a taxpayer claims deductions for life insurance (LIC) premiums, they must provide the receipt number, payment dates, insurer's name, and even details of the insured individual. Similarly, education-related deductions now require the disclosure of the child's details, school name, and payment receipt numbers.

"Housing loan deductions have also come under sharper scrutiny. Taxpayers must now disclose the opening and closing balances of their home loan, sanctioned amount, loan account number, date of sanction, and lender details. This is aimed at matching interest and principal claims with actual disbursements and lender records," Kulkarni said.

High-value transactions must be declared

One of the most significant changes is the mandatory disclosure of high-value and lifetime transactions. A cash deposit exceeding ₹1 crore in any bank account, foreign travel expenses above ₹2 lakh, or electricity bill payments over ₹1 lakh in a financial year now require detailed disclosures. Credit card payments above ₹10 lakh annually must also be reported, including the card issuer and transaction summaries.

In addition, all active bank account details must be provided, whether used for salary, rent, loan EMIs, or savings. Rent receipts now require the landlord's name, PAN (if applicable), receipt number, and complete address.

Cross-verification

The filing process now requires reconciliation with Form 26AS and the Annual Information Statement (AIS), which records interest income, dividends, and high-value financial activities reported by banks and other institutions. "If your return doesn't match the information in AIS or Form 26AS, you could receive a notice, or worse, your refund could be delayed or withheld," warns Kulkarni.

Even agricultural income, which is tax-exempt up to a point, must be reported with the landholding's address, pincode, and ownership details. This is being done to verify claims with land records and prevent misuse.

Crypto transactions under watch

Cryptocurrency transactions have also come under the tax department's radar. Whether it's profit from trading or long-term holdings, taxpayers must declare gains, losses, and transaction histories. The aim is to prevent tax evasion through digital assets, which have grown rapidly in popularity but often remain outside formal reporting channels.

Why sudden tightening?

Experts say the shift towards detailed scrutiny is a response to the growing disconnect between reported income and actual lifestyle indicators. While crores of Indians file ITRs, many transactions—like high-value purchases, foreign travel, or luxury spending—were not being accurately reported. The government is increasingly using data mining techniques to bridge this gap.

> **"Now, IT dept is asking for granular proof for almost every deduction, investment, financial activity** –Anand SK, CA

"Information is now flowing in from multiple sources—banks, credit bureaus, sub-registrar offices, passport departments, and even electricity boards. The tax department is consolidating this data to identify mismatches," Kulkarni explains. For instance, if someone buys a ₹1.5 crore apartment but reports an income of ₹4 lakh annually, it triggers a red flag. The move also aims to curb black money, improve compliance, and widen the tax base. By creating a tighter net of disclosures, the government hopes to push more individuals into accurate reporting and voluntary compliance.

Impact on taxpayers

While the long-term goal is transparency, the immediate impact is one of anxiety and confusion, particularly among senior citizens and non-tech-savvy individuals. Many are finding the filing process overwhelming, with new formats and demands for data they've never been asked to provide before. Errors or omissions could result in defective returns, delayed refunds.

Tax practitioners say even small mistakes—like not reconciling interest income or entering the wrong receipt number—can lead to notices.

Jackfruit theft gone wrong

A drunk man attempting to steal jackfruits from a tree near the Police Commissioner's Office got stuck mid-air about 50 feet up, prompting police to rescue him using a tarpaulin.

The incident occurred on Thursday afternoon inside the Embassy apartment complex. According to residents, the man, under the influence, somehow managed to sneak past security and climbed a tall jackfruit tree in the compound with one mission: free fruit.

As he crawled along a branch to grab the tempting jackfruits, he lost his balance and slipped. He was seen hanging from a branch, flailing and shouting for help.

Alarmed residents alerted security and immediately called the police. A Hoysala patrol team rushed to the scene and quickly realised they had no time to climb or call in the fire brigade. Thinking on their feet, the officers grabbed a large tarpaulin and held it below the tree.

Just in time, the man lost his grip and fell from the tree, landing safely on a tarpaulin held by the police. He suffered minor injuries. The officers later shifted him to Bowring Hospital for further treatment.

"We still don't know who he is," a police official said. "He hasn't said much yet, we'll question him after he recovers", the police added. —BMB

New B'luru–Gwalior weekly express

The Railway Board has announced the launch of a new weekly express train between Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal (SMVT), Bengaluru, and Gwalior.

Train No 11085 SMVT Bengaluru–Gwalior Weekly Express will depart every Sunday at 3.50 pm from SMVT Bengaluru starting June 29 and reach Gwalior Junction at 10.25 am on Tuesday. The return train, No 11086 Gwalior–SMVT Bengaluru Weekly Express, will leave Gwalior at 3 pm every Friday beginning July 4, arriving in Bengaluru at 7.35 am on Sunday.

The train will halt at major stations including Yelahanka, Kacheguda, Nagpur, Bhopal, and Guna, among others, catering to passengers across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh. **BMB**

Karnataka boosts artists' pension benefits

The Karnataka government has increased the monthly pension for senior artists from ₹2,000 to ₹2,500, fulfilling a long-standing demand of the artist community.

The revised pension will benefit over 12,000 senior artists aged 60 and above, and will come into effect from June 25. The Department of Kannada and Culture has been directed to release ₹32.94 crore to implement the scheme. The increase, announced in the 2025–26 state budget, follows Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's earlier assurance to enhance the pension. Artists from various fields, including art, literature, and culture, had consistently appealed for a raise, citing the growing cost of living and the need for dignity in their later years. **BMB**

Illegally built structures face BDA action

Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) officials have reclaimed land worth approximately ₹8.20 crore in JP Nagar 9th Phase, 2nd Block, by clearing unauthorised constructions that had encroached upon the area.

The demolition drive took place in Alahalli, Uttarahalli Hobli, where illegal structures had come up on survey number 84/1, covering plots 34, 73, 74, and 114. Despite repeated notices, the occupants failed to vacate, prompting the BDA to act. Around 7,340 sq ft of encroached land was recovered during the operation, which was carried out under police protection. The enforcement team included executive and assistant executive engineers from BDA's South Division. **BMB**

'Supply chain riddled with loopholes'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

into the Labour Welfare Board's finances after the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) flagged gross overspending on non-beneficiary items. The Board reportedly spent ₹386 crore on administrative costs, luxury vehicles, and salaries, overshooting the legal limit by several times.

"This isn't the first time welfare materials meant for children have been diverted or misused," said a city-based educationist. "Often, the supply chain is riddled with loopholes. Items rarely reach the children in remote labour settlements who need them the most. Stock is either hoarded, sold, or left undistributed. Without digital tracking, independent audits, and community monitoring, such schemes are vulnerable to quiet sabotage."

The Labour Department has launched an internal probe, with a focus on identifying gaps in the supply chain. Officials say they are collecting more details about the source of the books and have assured strict action against those responsible.

Thanks for nothing, Sahaaya 2.0

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Sahaaya 2.0 regarding uncovered drains on New Temple Road, unconstructed drains in the same area, and damaged Borewell Road, to mention a few. In all the instances, the complaints were closed without being resolved. Although I reopened the tickets multiple times, they were closed again. These issues still exist," complained Srivastava.

Disheartened with the state of affairs, Srivastava is now planning to approach the BBMP Commissioner and apprise him of the issue and seek a solution.

Citizens from other areas in the city have raised the same concern regarding the usage of Sahaaya 2.0.

"We have tried to highlight the issue of complaints being closed without resolution to the area engineer. But they suggest that we can reopen the complaint anytime. However, this has not been helpful so far," said a resident from Yelahanka.

According to Sandeep Anirudhan, a city-based civic activist and convenor of Citizens' Agenda for Bengaluru, the improved escalation features of Sahaaya 2.0 are unclear and sometimes ineffective.

"While citizens can reopen complaints, the process is ineffective sometimes, as officials can repeatedly close them without providing justification or proof of resolution. There should be provisions such as requiring officials to upload photographic or video evidence and an explanation before closing a complaint, and ensuring that reopened complaints are escalated to higher authorities rather than the same official," said Anirudhan.

Notably, there are multiple apps available for citizens to raise complaints related to various issues, such as Fix Pothole, e-Khatha app, Sahaaya 2.0, etc. BBMP recently announced that all the apps will soon be brought under one umbrella, the BBMP One app.

However, experts and citizens express skepticism about its effectiveness unless underlying processes and accountability are improved.

"Merely integrating apps without fixing the backend processes is inadequate. A few months back, we submitted a checklist of issues plaguing these apps to BBMP officials, but there was little follow-up or resolution. The civic agency should gather more feedback from affected residents and share relevant contact information and documentation, too," added Anirudhan.

BJP post: KPCC leader files complaint

An FIR has been registered by S Manohar, General Secretary of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC), against the official X handle of the Karnataka BJP for allegedly posting derogatory content equating former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi with Adolf Hitler.

According to the complaint registered at High ground police station, on Wednesday, around 3.54 pm, the handle @BJP4Karnataka shared a 38-second video titled "INDIRA INDIA INDIRA=HITLER." The video reportedly featured visuals from the Emergency era and displayed Indira Gandhi's photo with graphics likening her to Hitler.

Manohar, who was at the KPCC office on Crescent Road at the time, stated that the video attempts to distort historical facts and malign the image of the former Prime Minister. He alleged that such content is intended to incite hatred, disrupt social harmony, and foster enmity between different communities. **BMB**

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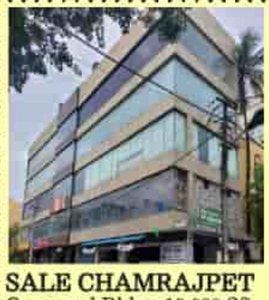

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I, ARJUMANA AFROZE D/o Abdul Wajeed R/o 46/A, 13TH CROSS, Kanakanagar, RT Nagar Post, B'lore 560032 have changed my name as ARJUMAN AFROZE A D/o ABDUL WAJID.

I, Vishnu Jayaram s/o Jayaram Abathotharna Iyer, R/o 515, Aishwarya palace, 1st Flr, B1 6th block, Sir M V Lyt, Viswaneedam, Bengaluru 560091 have changed my name to Vishnu Jayaraman S/o Jayaraman, Affidavit Dt.26/06/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Syed Afsar Rawoof S/o Syed Abdul Rawoof R/o #5/9,2nd Cross Church Street B'lore-560004 have changed my name to Syed Afsar.

I, Sumiya Afsar W/o Syed Afsar R/o #5/9,2nd Cross Church Street B'lore-560004 have changed my name to Sumaiya Afsar

I, Wajid Pasha, S/o Shaukath Ali, R/o No.252, Darga Mohalla, Vijinapura, Bangalore-560011, have changed my name from Wajid Pasha Shaukath Ali to Wajid Pasha for all purposes.

I, Viresh Devenkumar Shah, R/o Annexe 405, SBC The Nest Apartment, Kannamangala, Bengaluru - 560067, have changed my name to Viresh Deven Shah for all future purposes.

I Bavadarani Dhanendran Balasubramanian D/O, Balasubramanian R/o Bg01 Pavani Sreshta Apartments,9th Cross, Manjunatha Layout, Munnekolala, Bangalore have changed my name to Bavadarani Balasubramanian.

I Anupama Jahagirdar W/O, Jawahar Arun Jahagirdar R/o 135, Indira Bhel Remco Layout Kenchenahalli Behind R R Temple Raja Rajeshwari Nagar Bangalore - 560098 have changed my name to Anupama J Jahagirdar.

I, Ananda Timmappa Naik, S/o. Timmappa Naik, R/o. F. # 408C, Halsinadikeri, Balkur Village and Post, Honnavar, Uttara Kannada-581423, have changed my name to ANAND TIMMAPPA NAIK vide affidavit Dtd: 26/06/25 before Notary M. Rajendra, Blr

I Balasubramanian Nambiyappan Subrmaniam Dhanendran S/O, Dhanendran R/o Bg01, Pavani Sreshta Apartments, 9th Cross Manjunatha Layout, Munnekolala, Bangalore have changed my name to Balasubramanian Dhanendran.

I, Aliyar Aeijaz Ahmed S/o Mushthaque Ahmed A R/o #67 Rahamathula Nazeer Building 6th Cross Chokkasandra T Dasarahalli B'lore-560057 have changed my name to Aejaz Ahmed A

I, Obaleshappa Chickakadirappa R/o E-219, 2nd main, 5th cross, Ramachandrapuram, Srirampuram, Bengaluru 560021 have changed my name to Obaleshappa. I shall be called by this name for all purpose

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I, Deepmala Roy, residing at Samethanahali, Bangalore, ph:9007363223 hereby report the loss of the following documents: Document Type: Graduation Marksheet, Certificate, and Registration Card Issuing Institution: Assam University Year of Graduation: 2009 Roll No.: C-309 1020938 Registration No.: 10200910 Name on Documents: Deepmala Roy The documents were lost under unknown circumstances, and I request the public to kindly inform me if found. A reward offered for return.

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 # Sense and Sensibility... anew
Daisy Edgar-Jones is set to star as Elinor Dashwood in a new remake of Jane Austen's classic novel 'Sense and Sensibility'

Bond with the wild

TIMMANA MOTTEGALU
3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Rakshith Thirthahalli
- **ACTORS** Suchendra Prasad, Keshav Guttalige, Pragati Prabhu, Harsha, Ashika Somashekhar
- **Duration** 101 minutes
- **Certification** U

Timmana Mottegalu is Rakshith Thirthahalli's third film as a director in Sandalwood. The movie is based on a novel – Kadina Nentaru (meaning guests of forest). The director deserves a pat on the back for selecting a good subject for this movie that highlights the bond between nature and people living in the forest. It showcases the lifestyle of people living in the forest who, despite poverty, give importance to environmental conservation. The movie aptly shows the struggle people in the forest have to go through to get a shelter and education for their children.

The film, set in the dense forest of the Western Ghats, begins with Venkataiah (Sringeri Ramanna), a brahmin who is an arecanut cultivator, performing pooja as part of his routine rituals. Timma (Keshav Guttalige), a poor labourer, seeks financial help from Venkataiah to repair his hut which is on the verge of collapse. Venkataiah refuses to help Timma and demands he repay the loan he took the previous year. Timma tries his best to get money from landlords but in vain.

Meanwhile, a team of herpetologists led by Vijaykumar (Suchendra Prasad) comes to the forest to conduct a study on the King Cobra. Vijaykumar seeks Timma's help to locate the King Cobra in the forest and offers Rs 50,000 as a reward. Timma, who is desperate for money to repair his dilapidated hut and educate his son Subba (Harsha), agrees to track the King Cobra. You have to watch the movie to know whether or not Timma succeeds in his mission.

Suchendra Prasad, as the leader of the team who is in a hurry to complete the task, has acted well. As usual, his dialogue delivery is good. Keshav Guttalige, as a father desperate to repair his hut and provide education to his son, has acted well. He deserves appreciation for his dialogue delivery and gestures – as an innocent labourer and a hapless father. Ashika Somasekhar, who plays the role of Hita, a herpetologist with a heart of gold, has acted well. Sringeri Ramanna, Pragati Prabhu, Harsha, and Raghu Ramankoppa have provided good support.

Cinematographer Praveen S has done a good job behind the camera in capturing greenery of the Western Ghats.

The movie is worth a watch for those who enjoy movies about nature. **—Y Maheswara Reddy**

Just a rain delay

Sam, Aditya-starrer is still very much on, confirm filmmakers

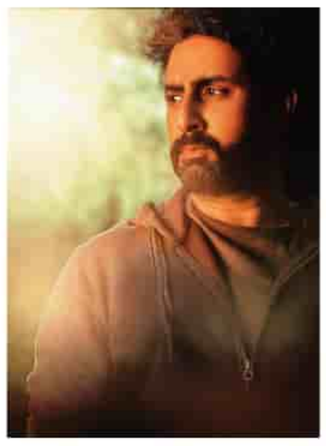
Filmmaker duo Raj & DK's upcoming ambitious series Rakt Brahmand – The Bloody Kingdom, starring Aditya Roy Kapur, Samantha Ruth Prabhu, Ali Fazal and Wamiqa Gabbi recently sparked rumours of being shelved. Responding to the speculation, Krishna DK firmly denied the reports, saying, "We've completed the main portions and have begun rehearsals for the action sequences that are to be shot outdoors. Rakt Brahmand is our biggest show in terms of scale and scope, and there's no urgency to rush the shoot. We're waiting for the Mumbai rains to subside so we can continue filming in large outdoor locations, including expansive grounds and lush forests."

Offering a glimpse into the show's concept, Krishna added, "It's a period drama set between the 10th and 12th centuries, but with a modern take. The lead cast is training for some intense action scenes. Unfortunately, the rains arrived earlier than expected, forcing us to adjust our schedule." There were also recent rumours about another project helmed by them, Gulkanda Tales, starring Kunal Kemmu and Pankaj Tripathi, being cancelled. Krishna clarified, "It's taking time because of the extensive VFX work involved. But we wouldn't be putting in so much effort if our shows were actually being cancelled."

The duo is also busy with other ventures. "We're gearing up for the release of The Family Man 3 and writing our next film," he said.

—ETimes

Where Abhishek feels at home

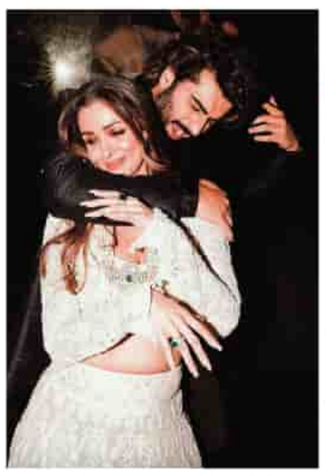


Actor Abhishek Bachchan loves to visit Bhopal, as he feels a deeply personal connection with the city. The actor recently visited the city as a part of promotions for his upcoming film 'Kaalidhar Laapata'.

The team gathered at the lake, where they released floating diyas that illuminated the film's title, a moving tribute to the city and its spirit. Abhishek Bachchan said, "Coming back to Bhopal is always deeply personal for me. It's not just a city I've filmed in, it feels like home and so many of my childhood memories are woven into its streets. Shooting 'Kaalidhar Laapata' in Bhopal brought all of that flooding back. Now, returning for the film's promotions has been just as special".

He added, "One of the standout moments was the photo-op by the Bhopal Lake, a powerful gesture that captures the essence of 'Kaalidhar Laapata'. As hundreds of diyas lit up the water, it became a moving visual metaphor for what the film stands for: finding light in the most unlikely places, forming unexpected connections, and embracing life wholeheartedly..." **— IANS**

Malaika wishes Arjun on his birthday



As Arjun Kapoor turned forty on Thursday, his former partner, Malaika Arora, shared a sweet birthday post for the actor.

Taking to her Instagram Stories, Malaika posted a fun boomerang video of Arjun jumping on a street, which appeared to be in an international location.

Along with the clip, she wrote, "Happy Birthday @arjunkapoor," adding a heart and wine glass emoji to mark the celebration.

Malaika and Arjun started dating in 2018. The duo, however, never opened up much about their relationship but kept posting romantic pictures from their vacations, as well as wishing each other on their birthdays. Malaika was previously married to actor Arbaaz Khan. They have been co-parenting their son Arhaan since their divorce in 2017. **— ANI**

BASED ON A TRUE STORY
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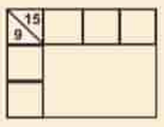
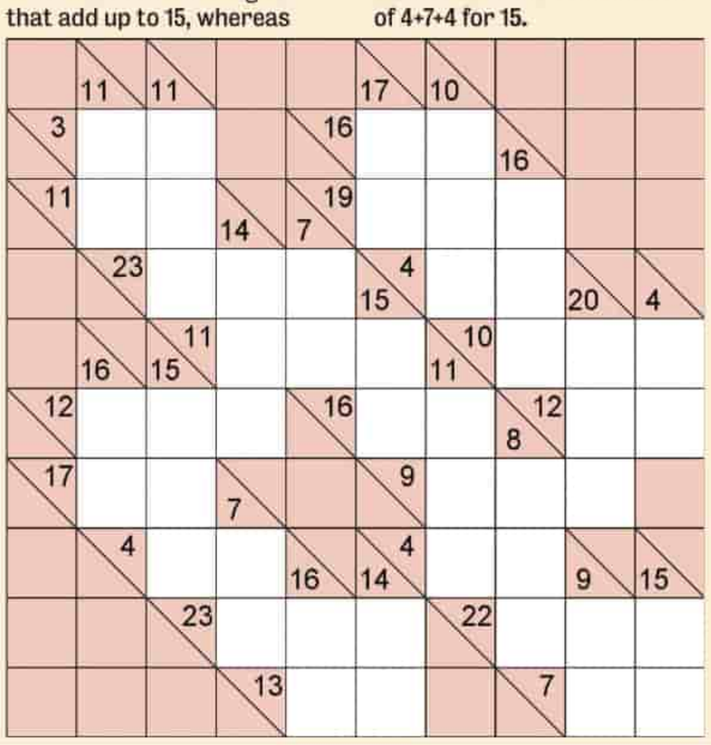
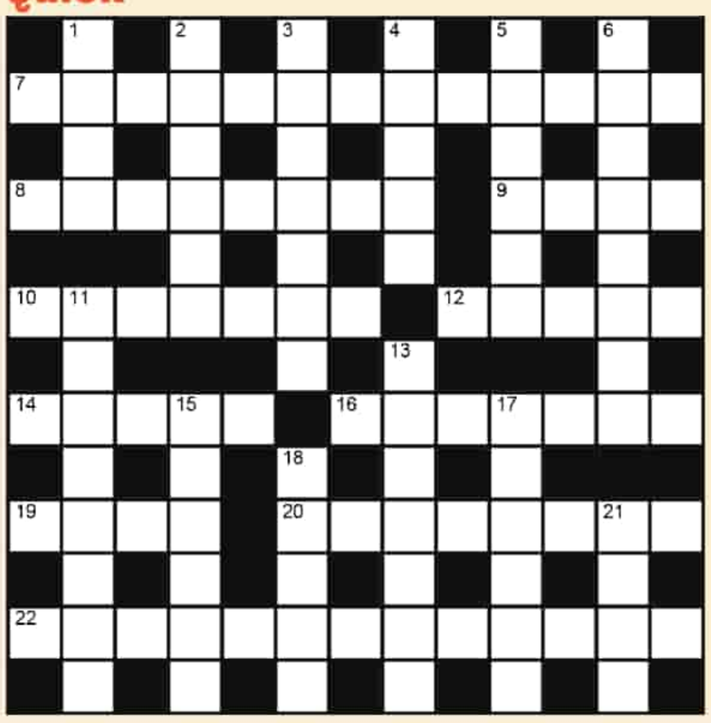


The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Signal at the end of a motor race (9,4)
8 Inclusion (8)
9 Fearsome giant (4)
10 Dart or dash about; scurry (7)
12 Express in writing or in a speech (5)
14 Bellows like a lion, perhaps (5)
16 Chef's domain? (7)
19 Anxious (4)
20 Home base of Gilbertian pirates (8)
22 Machine from which money can be obtained (4,9)

DOWN

1 African country (4)
2 Wriggle with embarrassment (6)
3 Explained, expounded or clarified (7)
4 Denim trousers (5)
5 Make an ___ : exert or apply oneself? (6)
6 Execute by strangulation (8)
11 ____ Memorial Hall: Venue for plays and musical performances in Kodandarampura (8)
13 Abducts and holds to ransom (7)
15 Musical beat (6)
17 Shackles (6)
18 Of the eye (5)
21 Stage hints (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: U EQUALS G

KAXGX NGX KOR IRKQEXF ZRG GXNPQMU N CRRJ: RMX, KANK SRV XMLRS QK; KAX RKAXG, KANK SRV DNM CRNFK NCRVK

Linemaro

Are you a girl scout? You tie my heart in knots

Mindchow

That which is lost by not succeeding is way smaller than that which is lost by not trying

Joke of the day

I could tell by their audible gasps that people on the beach were jealous of me when I found six sharks' teeth; locating them was not really the problem, but pulling them out of my leg was

Loop

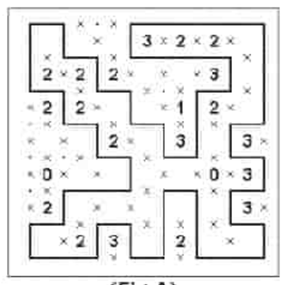
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

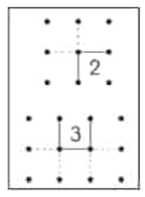
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

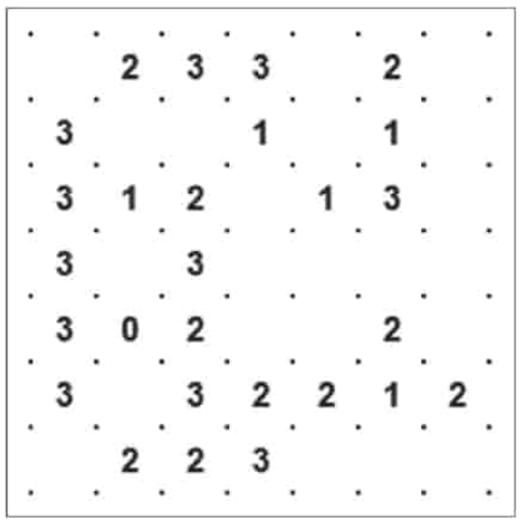
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



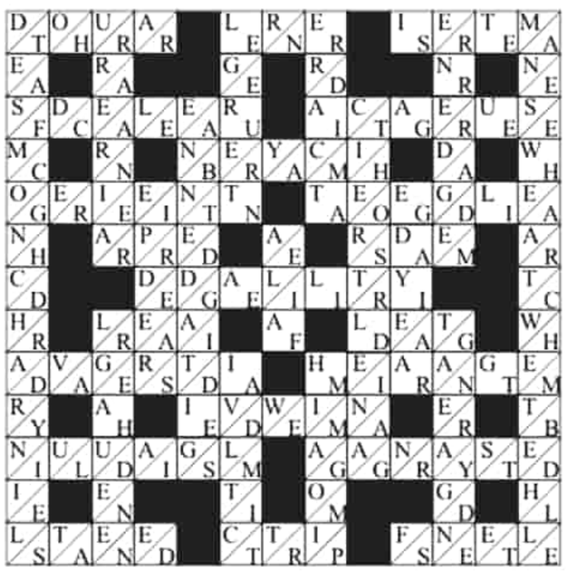
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



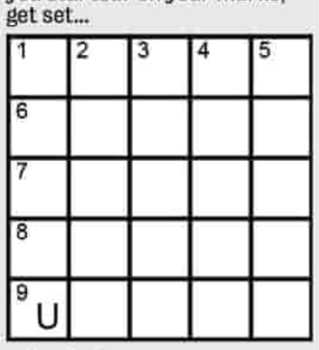
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

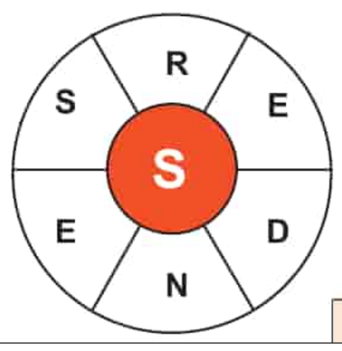
1 Parse; 6 No ave; 7 Ice Ju; 8 Torte; 9 Suers

DOWN

1 A Juno; 2 Spout; 3 IT eve; 4 Carer; 5 Erses

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

08 Average; **10** Good; **12** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		3		9		7		
1								2
7		5	3		4	8		9
		7	6		8	3		
	6						5	
		2	4		3	9		
4		9	8		5	2		7
2								3
		8		7		1		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 3

5 6 7 9

Medium = 44

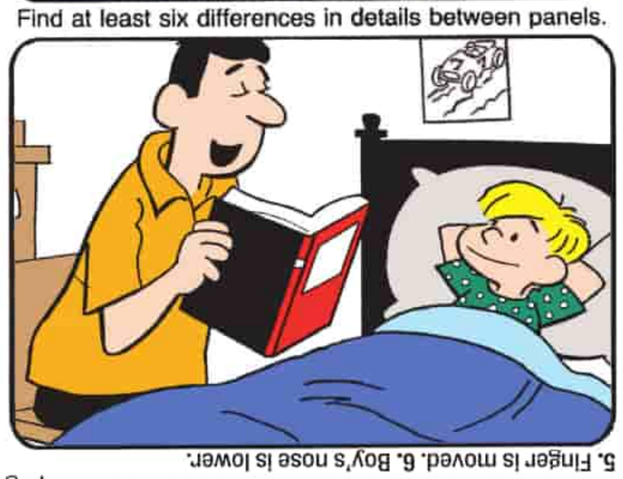
5 5 6 9

Hard = 2

2 5 8 7

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



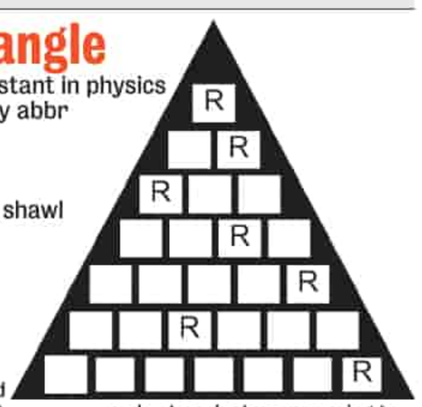
Differences: 1. Car number is different. 2. Back of chair is different. 3. Headboard is different. 4. Book has more pages. 5. Finger is moved. 6. Boy's nose is lower.

Riddler

To build an offensive, I'm the tool That thwarts the enemy. I'm how you climb on horse or mule, You ride them to climb me. What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 Universal gas constant in physics
2 Augmented Reality abbr
3 LL Cool J's genre
4 Reduce
5 Asparagus bit
6 Brightly coloured shawl
7 Orator



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

AHOY, OLIVE ...I YAM ALL VISIBLE AGAIN!
I LIKED YOU THE WAY YOU WERE!
BUT, OLIVE ... ONLY ME HEAD AN' FEETS WAS VISIBLE!
I KNOW!! BUT YOU MADE SUCH A GREAT CONVERSATION PIECE!
?
?
9-30
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popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

AUGH, I KNOW I LEFT MY REPORT HERE... WHERE IS IT??
HEY, CHARLOTTE! I HAVE YOUR BOOK REPORT. SOMEONE GAVE IT TO ME TO TAKE TO THE LOST AND FOUND.
IT'S AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE...
-4:58
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
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Crankshaft

AS A KID, I'D SIT DOWN WITH MY BEST FRIEND BUTCH AT HIS DINING ROOM TABLE AND DRAW CARTOONS TOGETHER...
'AND IT WAS WHERE I CAME UP WITH MY CHARACTER NEPTUNE NICK ...'
IF I'D REALIZED THEN THAT I'D END UP USING HIM ON COMIC BOOK COVERS IN MY STRIP 'THREE O'CLOCK HIGH'... I PROBABLY WOULD HAVE FAINTED FROM JOY!
3-21
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are blessed by the Moon. You may receive good news from a sibling and spend quality time with family and friends. Your creativity may inspire renovations at home or work. Starting a new partnership with a family member could prove beneficial. At work, your subordinates may support you in completing important projects.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today may feel mentally challenging. You might struggle with mood swings, incomplete tasks, and a lack of patience. Small mistakes can create confusion. Emotional strain may affect relationships—love birds should avoid overthinking feelings. It's also a day to take care of your parents' health. Students may face concentration issues.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
The positive Moon brings happiness and peace of mind. You may be efficient at work, and your team will support you in making key decisions. You might plan a new venture with the help of siblings or your professional network, which could bring future success. Remember to get enough rest to stay energized.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, the Moon turns negative. You might feel detached from responsibilities and overspend on unnecessary items, creating negativity at home or the office. Be cautious of rivals or hidden enemies—stay alert to avoid being misled. Read all documents carefully before signing anything important.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Blessed by the Moon, you may enjoy harmony in both family and professional life. Your polite attitude helps in smooth communication. New sources of income may open up, boosting your savings. You might also plan a renovation project to enhance your home or workplace.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you're likely to feel fulfilled. Your hard work may finally be recognized, enhancing your social standing. However, mental exhaustion from overthinking could leave you tired. Due to your workload, you may miss a family gathering. On a positive note, chronic health issues concerning your parents may show improvement.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
With the Moon in your favor, you're likely to feel content at work. A short work-related trip or a visit to a religious place may help refresh your mind. Guidance from elders could provide valuable clarity regarding your life goals and direction.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
A negative Moon may cause dullness or mood swings. Think twice before taking action today. If you're traveling to recover finances, proceed with caution or risk a loss. Avoid adventurous outings. Students should focus on deep study to succeed academically.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today is favorable. Domestic harmony will bring happiness. An influential person may help you professionally. Your performance at work will likely improve, and you might receive a promotion. Disputes related to inherited property may also be resolved.

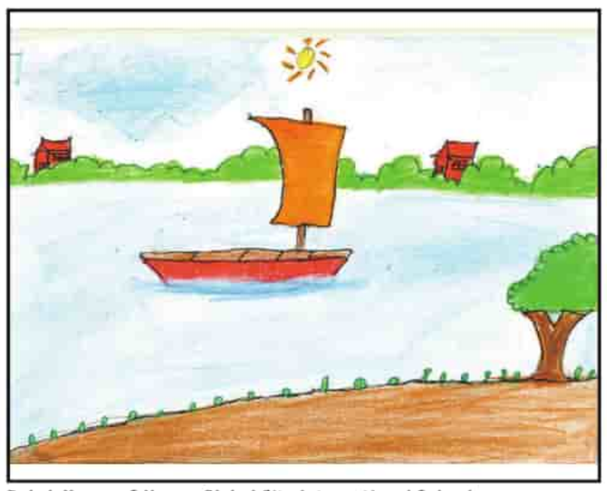
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
You're blessed by the Moon. Good health and focused energy will help you excel at work. Your boss may appreciate your efforts and give you more responsibilities. Legal matters may turn in your favor. You'll likely gain an edge over business competitors and hidden enemies.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today your intellect shines. You may focus on learning and the value of knowledge. Controlling your temper will help things run smoothly. A steady income flow will bring comfort, though you should be cautious with new investments. Spending on loved ones may bring joy. Love birds will enjoy affectionate moments together.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
The Moon's influence may create a sense of negativity. Responsibilities could feel overwhelming, leading to hasty actions and errors. This could slow your work efficiency and delay ongoing projects. Before making important decisions, seek advice from elders. Their guidance could help you navigate the day better.

KIDZONE

Garima Varma, 9 Years, SKPS, Bengaluru



Daksh Kumar, 8 Years, Global City International School

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= ((81 / 625)^1/4) + (216 / 125)^2/3))
= ((3/5) + (6/5^2))
= ((15 / 25) + (36 / 25)) = 51/25

BULL'S EYE
dense, denser, dress, REDNESS, seed, seen, seer, send, sender, sense, sensed, sneer

FAST FIVE

A	P	E	R	S
N	O	V	A	E
J	U	I	C	E
O	T	T	E	R
U	S	E	R	S

QUOTE UNCODE
There are two motives for reading a book: one, that you enjoy it; the other, that you can boast about it.

STRIKE OUT

S	A	N	D		T	R	I		F	E	E	L		
E		E		I		M		G		L				
N	U	D	I	S	M		A	G	N	A	T	E		
Y		A		E	D	W	I	N		R		B		
A	V	E	S	T	A		M	I	R	A	G	E		
H		L	E	A		F		L	E	G		H		
D			E	G	A	L	I	T	Y			T		
N		A	P	E		E		R	A	E		R		
O	R	I	E	N	T		T	O	G	G	L	E		
M		N		B	E	A	C	H		A		W		
S	C	A	L	A	R		I	C	A	R	U	S		
E		R		G		D			N			N		
D	O	U	R		E	R	E		S	E	T	A		

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
Y. Start with the top point of each star, and move clockwise around the other points. Letters advance through the alphabet in steps of 5 for the left hand star, 6 for the central star, and 7 for the right hand star.

RIDDLER Mount

SUDOKU

6	8	3	1	9	2	7	4	5
1	9	4	5	8	7	6	3	2
7	2	5	3	6	4	8	1	9
9	4	7	6	5	8	3	2	1
3	6	1	7	2	9	4	5	8
8	5	2	4	1	3	9	7	6
4	1	9	8	3	5	2	6	7
2	7	6	9	4	1	5	8	3
5	3	8	2	7	6	1	9	4

ALPHA TRIANGLE
R, Ar, Rap, Pare, Spear, Serape, Speaker.

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 - 5 + 6 - 7 = 3
Medium
6 × 5 + 5 + 9 = 44
Hard
7 - 8 + 5 - 2 = 2

LOOP

KAKURO

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